3

INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS SINCE 1989



OUR WHEELS, OUR HOME

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DIA DE LOS MUERTOS ACTION FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

MENTAL HEALTH SF AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

THE THREE MUSKETEERS OF **CALVARY CHURCH**

REMEMBERING BERNARD AND LITTLE EDDIE

AND SANTA RITA STRIKE! RREED AND RIDS LAUNCH FCO-RLITZKRIEG AGAINST HOMELESS PEOPLE THIS HOLIDAY

On November 19, Mayor Breed announced the "Love Our City Holiday Eco Blitz." The Eco Blitz is a 24 hour a day, two month initiative to clean up the city for the holiday weekend between Black Friday and the end of the holiday shopping season. However, an unfortunate side effect of these efforts we have seen repeatedly has been the sweeping of poor and unhoused people out of downtown San Francisco in the name of street cleanliness or "going green." Breed announced her holiday theme alongside the cities' most notorious conductors of sweeps: the Department of Public Works and the police department. Launched in partnership with four of San Francisco's

most notorious purveyor of greed and neo-liberalism the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District (CBD), the East Cut CBD, the Fisherman's Wharf CBD, and the Union Square Business Improvement District (BID).

The irony of using these private corporations as a substitute for any kind of actual community support is especially blatant coming from the city itself. The Mayor's Office, which spends tens of thousands of dollars subsidizing the creation of new CBDs, and offers a "plethora of services" to support them, knows very well that these organizations represent only one set of interests big businesses.

BIDs, of which CBDs are one type, are private corporations created by, funded by and accountable to only the largest property owners in the districts to which they lay claim.

In elections on BIDs, which happen every time one is created or renewed, ballots are weighted according to the size and value of a property owner's property. So the more property you own, the bigger

your vote, and the more responsive the BID is to your needs. In the last election for the Yerba Buena CBD, it received more than half of its votes from just five property owners: four large corporations and the city itself. The vast majority of people whose day-today lives are actually affected by BIDs are renters and community members who have no control over the creation, funding, or decision-making of the BID.

This matters because BIDs are using their false image as community representatives to justify policing some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. BIDs narrow the range of activities permitted in public

spaces to those directly conducive to consumption, and all else becomes criminalized — especially the activities of poor and unhoused people. These four BIDs alone spent over \$5 million last year on security. Each one hired off-duty cops and private security to harass poor and unhoused people who dared to stay in San Francisco's public spaces. The Union Square BID has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars installing a camera surveillance network, and the Fisherman's Wharf CBD harassed people for sitting or lying down 2,565 times last year.

This is only the latest in a long line of government policies BIDs have

supported to further marginalize and punish San Francisco's poorest residents. The Union Square BID testified in favor of San Francisco's sit-lie ban back in 2010. More recently, five BIDs pushed the city to support a conservatorship law giving police more power to violate the civil rights of unhoused people as part of the Clean and Safe Coalition. If it was not clear enough already, the support of BIDs leaves no room for doubt: this program is a campaign to rid downtown of poor and unhoused people so that holiday shoppers will even further enrich the bottom lines of corporate San Francisco.



DATE: AS OF DECEMBER IST THERE ARE 989 FOR SHELTER IN SAN FRANCISCO

INTRODUCING... REET SHEET



Tim J noticed a problem living in San Francisco: while the city has poured hundreds of millions into trying to solve the homeless problem, more action needed to be taken for those that are in need. He was a regular reader of Street Sheet, so he knew that this paper puts money directly into the pockets of those able to work for it, and he knew from talking to vendors that selling the paper made a huge impact on them.

"I created Street Sheet Love after years of hearing stories from vendors who have struggled to sell Sheets, as many vendors can go a whole day without selling a single one," said Tim. So he started brainstorming about how to raise the profile of this newspaper, and came up with a bright idea. He decided to produce little Street Sheet pins to distribute to readers! How it works is that readers can collect five editions of the paper, and then can trade them in for a free pin!

"Many San Franciscan residents don't know the story behind Street Sheets, nor the stories behind the individuals selling them. I hope that this will help build awareness for these wonderful people."

Street Sheet has been in circulation for 30 years, and is the longest continuously published street newspaper in the world. With the help of around 250 vendors, we get 30,000 papers out to readers like you every month!

"I wanted to make sure that whatever project I started translated into money in the vendor's pockets, either through raising awareness of Street Sheet or raising empathy for who the vendors are. The trade-in system is direct proof that you had paid a vendor for X amount of Street Sheets and that seems like a good deal." ■

Visit STREETSHEETLOVE.COM to trade in your papers and get a free Street Sheet pin!

SF Then

SF Now

too expensive muni bus **Barbary Coast** homeless camp at City Hall live on a houseboat \$2 lunch at 16th & Mission citizens **Emperor Norton** freaks all come to SF anything goes yellow cabs in traffic apartments artists with soul Smiles

way too expensive google bus Milk Toast homeless washed off Mkt. St. live in a car \$20 toast - same corner stakeholders **Emperor Ellison** freaks all go to East Bay everything for sale Ubers in gridlock tents Techies with money

Frowns

Tracy 2019 SF>\$

DONATE TO KEEP STREET SHEET GOING STRONG!



coalition.networkforgood.com

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agenda to us.

WORKGROUP MEETINGS

AT 280 TURK STREET

HOUSING JUSTICE WORK GROUP

Every Tuesday at noon The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORK GROUP

Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR WORK GROUP MEETINGS. Our new office has an elevator for anyone who can not use the stairs. Simply call up and someone will come escort you to the elevator. We also have an all gender bathroom available.

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, contact us at : 415-346-3740, or go at : www.cohsf.org

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

Editor, Quiver Watts (they/them) Assistant Editor, TJ Johnston Vendor Coordinator, Emmett House

Our contributors include:

Jennifer Friedenbach, Sam Lew, Jason Law, Jay Rice, Miguel Carrera, Kelley Cutler, Jesus Perez, Armando del toro Garcia, Tracey Mixon, Darnell Boyd, Shyenene Brown, Meghan "Roadkill" Johnson, Olivia Glowacki, Mike Russo, Zach K

SUBMIT YOUR POETRY

The deadline to submit your poetry for the Street **Sheet's Annual Poetry** Edition is December 20th! Drop off in person or email streetsheetsf@gmail.com



OUR WHEELS, OUR HOMI RV DWELLERS FIGHT TO STAY OFF THE STREETS

Mirjam Washuus

As of April 2019, over 1,800 San

Franciscans were living in their vehicles. This is an increase of almost 600 people (49 %) since 2017 and simultaneously an undercount according to the pointin-time count itself. That is nearly 2,000 people sleeping, eating, fighting illnesses, helping neighbors, raising children, going to work and school from inside a tin box with very limited, if any, access to water and electricity. So, they are dependent on its community (both City and neighbors) to provide support as in any other community.

In the Ingleside neighborhood, this support is currently being embodied by way of the upcoming "vehicle triage center," the first resource created for people living in vehicles. The center will have 30 available parking spots until a number of low income units will be built at the location in less than a year. This is a small step in a different direction than has been seen before now, as the support from the City has mainly consisted of parking restrictions, citations and repeated towing of people's vehicular home.

These approaches are thoroughly problematic as they merely pose as extra challenges for people in vehicles to cope with. Fines and towing fees of people's vehicular homes are disproportionate, leaving people with nothing and looping them into a downwards spiral - and sometimes eventually into the streets.

Many vehicularly housed residents report that they are not being notified about citations and that their vehicles/ homes are often towed unwarranted. One woman had her vehicle taken during a period of time when her mother was sick in the hospital. Another man had his trailer destroyed by the Department of Public Works, while his belongings were "bagged and tagged" and thrown into a trash compactor. Several of the surrounding neighbors were present to confirm that the belongings were in fact his, and even when he showed up to claim it, the

"cleaning" continued.

Farther down the road from where the trash compactor passed by a family resides in their RV: a young single mother who fled domestic violence with her two children and sought shelter in their RV. She told us about how challenging it has been to get help from the system; how much she fights to secure housing for her family, while working and maintaining a stable life for her children, who, despite the challenge of not having stable housing, loves school and earns all A's.

This neighborhood of RVs, cars and trailers radiates feelings of a community fighting to stay afloat in an environment, where its people are being demonized and suppressed. People sleeping, eating, fighting illnesses, helping neighbors, raising children, going to work and school from inside a tin box - in a city where 33,000 housing units lie vacant, according to the 2015 American Community Survey. ■

Image by Deana Collins



ONE DAY HUNGER STRIKE AT NOTORIOUS SANTA RITA JAIL

Ella Rose-Kessler

On October 30, over 400

individuals locked up in Santa Rita Jail staged a one-day hunger and workstopage strike to fight back against the inhumane conditions they're subjected to. The group had a list of 26 demands relating to their inhumane treatment, such the jail providing more cleaning supplies to maintain sanitary conditions, access to lawyers, better and more nutritious food, daily exercise and recreation time, and an end to price gouging for commissary items and phone calls.

A large percentage of the demands made should already be met based on state and federal standards, but the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has chosen not to uphold those standards, leaving those incarcerated to use a collective show of power and community to hold them accountable.

The demand list stated, "Santa Rita needs to evolve its system and methods away from this punitive justice system and demoralizing, inhumane treatment of citizens and drug addicts to a modernized system and methods of restorative justice!"

Santa Rita Jail, located in Dublin, has a longstanding history of human rights abuses and currently has multiple lawsuits pending against it. Since 2014, forty-two individuals have died at the hands of the state while in custody at Santa Rita Jail. Recently a pregnant woman was kept in an isolation cell at Santa Rita and was allowed to give birth without medical assistance or help, further highlighting the cruel and inhumane treatment those inside experience.

In retaliation to this show of power by the inmates, individuals

who participated in the one day strike have reported being threatened with and given 30-day additions to their sentences.

at Santa Rita, the jail spends nearly \$75,000 per year. The population, totaling nearly 4,000 individuals, results in millions of dollars being invested into cages rather than community.

One of the issues brought to the forefront by the strikers was people struggling with substance use, who are then locked up, aren't provided with the services or medical treatment needed. Instead, the jail leaves them to deal with withdrawal symptoms themselves, putting them at risk of injury or death. Jails should not be used to fill the need for drug rehabilitation services, housing and mental health services.

"People don't realize that that [detox] can kill you. When I got arrested and went to Santa Rita they tapered me way too fast and it could have killed me," said an anonymous For every incarcerated individual participant in a focus group led by the Our City Our Home campaign. "My doctor wouldn't even sign up for my dose switch, 200 to 10 mg a day taper. When I get out, I know I'm gonna use, by the end of the week I'd be "detoxed" but withdrawing... Not everybody needs to go to jail."

> The majority of the individuals locked up in Santa Rita are from Alameda County, which includes Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Oakalnd, Hayward, Pleasanton and more. It's imperative that as people who exist in these cities that we are in solidarity with those locked up in Santa Rita, their fight for humane treatment and the larger goal of prison abolition.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS MAYOR FIGHLIGHTING THE URGENT NEED PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

A grandmother in our Housing Justice Work Group reported to us the death of her grandchild, who prematurely died in the womb due to the mother's stress of being homeless and on the streets. This news emerged in the midst of a three-year battle with the City of San Francisco to make pregnant people eligible for family homeless services. Prior to our recent win, the policy was that only those who were in their third trimester of pregnancy were eligible for homeless family services. While we know the importance of the first few months of pregnancy, how the mother's health directly correlates to the child's health and sets up healthy development for life, until this month the City remained steadfast in affirming this antiquated, arbitrary practice.

During our annual Dia de los Muertos celebration, we wanted to honor families, children and their parents whose lives are cut short due to the trauma of being unhoused. This year, we took to the streets in a procession from the Coalition on Homelessness to City Hall with dozens of supporters and an altar complete with candles, food, marigolds and sugar skulls.

On our way to City Hall, we marched through the farmer's market, drawing attention and awareness to an often forgotten subgroup of people: families experiencing homelessness. We briefly stopped at Compass Family Services and heard from Mary Kate Bacalao, their Development and Communications Director, about the many subsidies which are awarded to families through their various programs. Mary Kate spoke at length about the latest budget win: 36 rapid-rehousing subsidies which will help exit families from homelessness into a home of their own. Nathaly Frias, a peer organizer with the Coalition on Homelessness, spoke about her personal experience with Compass. Her family was recently able to move out of the RV the had been living in for many months thanks to such a subsidy. Both Nathaly and Mary Kate spoke to the success of advocacy and organizing with community power: winning subsidies to house families!

Once at City Hall, we lobbied for policies that help families experiencing homelessness, just like the subsidies. One of our four demands was for the Board of Supervisors to release the 36 rapid rehousing subsidies. While the funding is there, it has not been released, preventing families who are currently suffering on the streets and in shelters from getting the financial

assistance to have a home of their own.

Another demand we had was for a full service shelter replacement for the family emergency shelter at First Friendship Institutional Baptist Church. As it stands, First Friendship is a large room in a church where families come nightly to sleep with their children on 2-inch mats on the floor. There is no storage at First Friendship, meaning families who reside there must lug their belongings there each night, only having to haul it out the next morning when they have to leave. Further, First Friendship doesn't have showers, so families who live there have to get up early to walk across town to access showers so their children can wash up before school. Similarly to the rent subsidies, the City has the money for a replacement to Frist Friendship — with storage and showers — yet has not acted since the money was allocated two years ago.

Our third demand was for speedy, flexible emergency transfers in public and city-funded housing. We need such transfers in public housing units when there are emergency situations. For example, in cases of domestic violence, we want to be able to ensure that families are able to transfer units quickly so that they can be safe and healthy. Another example is if they face the threat of eviction for a change in family size.

Our fourth and final demand was specifically to Mayor London Breed: seat the Our City Our Home Oversight Committee. The successful measure

from the November 2018 ballot, Proposition C, which practically doubles the City's budget for homelessness, is held up in court right now because of the rich oligarchy of white men represented by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California Business Roundtable and California Apartment Association, who want to stifle the will of the people and hold up lifesaving money while people die on our streets.

To make matters worse, some of this frozen money which was given by Salesforce up front, has already been spent by the Mayor on singleadult shelter beds. While we know San Francisco has a severe shortage of shelter beds, the Our City Our Home allocations fund housing, the solution to homelessness. Also, Our City Our Home has spending requirements, so a certain percentage of money is required to go to families. As of now, not a cent of the money Mayor Breed has spent has gone to families. We need the Our City Our Home Oversight Committee to be formed to hold the Mayor, or anyone else, accountable to how it should be spent.

While all these issues are ongoing, we at the Coalition will continue to fight for families experiencing homelessness. All of our demands come from the people at our open Housing Justice Work Group meetings from 12 noon to 2 p.m. every Tuesday. Stop by our new office at 280 Turk St. to see how we organize, advocate and fight for all to have safe, dignified housing. ■



In a compromise, two competing measures on mental health will not go to the ballot and instead Mental Health SF will go through the legislative process. The very contentious process ended in awkward hugs as the city family shared the stage on the steps of city hall in a press conference announcing the deal on November 12th 2019.

Supervisors Ronen and Haney proposed going to the ballot with Mental Health SF, a plan they came up with that moves SF closer towards having universal mental health care by opening up a 24 hour central access center, an office of coordinated care and creates a new oversite body. Breed, stating displeasure with the measure, entered into negotiations with the Supervisors and then walked out, even after several concessions were given. She stated she did not want said measure to go to the ballot. However she then introduced a counter measure named Urgent Care SF that was particularly nasty to be placed on the same ballot. It did some things that she was already planning on doing but it also prioritized enforcement of possession of drugs and put SFPD in charge of homeless outreach teams, street medicine and mobile crisis. It also had a one way poison pill that would kill the Ronen/Haney measure if hers got more votes but would institute both if the Ronen/Haney measure got more. The entire debacle felt like a game of thrones where mental health consumers are forced to pay the price for political maneuvering. In the end however, very little substantive items were compromised in the Ronen/ Haney Mental Health SF except to exclude privately insured people from the measure, which may not have been a bad thing, given the Department of Public Health current state of disarray and the lack of faith in their ability to handle much more.

Here are the key elements of Mental Health SF that was agreed to but still needs to go through Board of Supervisors to be passed:

Serves homeless people and uninsured people under 500% of federal poverty level (over 500% will pay fee for service), as well as those receiving Medical and HealthySF, but



EAL ONARD Jennifer Friedenbach

prioritizes homeless people with both substance use and severe mental illnesses.

- + Creates governing principles from harm reduction approach to low barrier access and customer focused services. It also mentions involuntary treatment only after other attempts at voluntary services have been made and in accordance with state law. It also has as a principle that housing must be prioritized to the priority population under Mental Health SF.
- + Establishes a mental health service center that must be open 24 hours. As part of the compromise, it will be located at 1380 Howard, the current service center instead of having a new one at SFGH. It will bump up the services there keep the pharmacy but expand the site from treatment referral and wait list management to having more intensive services on-site such as transportation, urgent care, case management, and psychiatric assessment.
- + Establishes an Office of Coordinated Care to oversee the delivery system. The functions will include real time inventory of program and service availability, case management including filling the unmet need for intensive case managers (broken down into three levels of care depending on acuity level), coordination with psychiatric emergency services and jail, and data collection. There is also a marketing component to get word out.
- + Creates a Crisis Response
 Team that hopes to replace police
 response to folks in psychiatric crisis.
 This shall operate 24/7, and will have
 an ability to field calls directly and
 through dispatch.
- + Mental Health and Substance Abuse expansion is called for but not directed, with the idea to eliminate wait times across the system. A working group will make recommendations for what this should look like.
- + Establishes an Office of Private Health Insurance Accountability to advocate on behalf of privately

insured individuals who are not getting the coverage they need, in conjunction with the city attorney. This includes the provision of insurance navigators, collecting data, advising folks on resources.

+ Forms a Working Group to oversee the operation, make recommendations on funding, and issue reports. This is a split group with 11 seats, 6 appointed by Board and 5 by Mayor.

Today, folks with severe mental illnesses are not getting their needs met and are frequently used for political gain under calls to lock them up. In reality, they are locked out of care. In order to turn this around, they need a diverse robust system of care without waits. Street Sheet's organization Coalition on Homelessness is currently conducting a needs assessment of folks with mental health and substance use issues, and the hope is we can utilize Mental Health SF as a catalyst to forge the changes that our folks are calling for. As of yet, there is not funding attached to this measure, but a side agreement with the Mayor includes a signed statement that funds will be found. To do it right, it may mean returning to the ballot for revenue. The Mayor plans on putting a bond measure to pay for part of it, and there is talk of a CEO tax to pay for operating costs. The estimate is this will cost \$100 million, but the price to ensure we have enough treatment capacity for all who need it is clearly much higher, given there are 4,000 people who are homeless, mentally ill and using substances that have been identified by Department of Public Health, and the cost of beds can be as high as \$250,000 per year in the very highest levels of care. Community care is both more effective and a much lower cost than institutions, but there are upfront costs of securing facilities to that as well. Mental Health SF could be key to putting in place a responsive healing client centered system, but a lot more work needs to be done. This must include continuing to push for housing – as this is as important a mental health intervention as any. ■

PREVENTING SUICIDE: NOTICING THE SIGNS Shyhyene Brown

So imagine growing up in an abusive family, imagine struggling to fit in at school and at home, being bullied at school. Imagine being raped by the person you trusted to protect you. Just imagine running away from home to get away from the hurt and pain that you endured at home. And just imagine using drugs and alcohol at a young age to suppress the feelings of your past life.

As human beings we wouldn't have known any of these factors and how much it affects our daily lives. Within these last five years of my life I've had multiple people who I love and care for commit suicide.

Now let's go a little deeper into this situation, and the statistical factors of it all.

- Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US
- In 2017 there were an estimated 1,400,000 suicide attempts
- In 2017 47,173 Americans died by suicide
- In 2015 suicide and self-injury cost the US \$69 billion

SUICIDE RISK FACTORS:

There is no single cause for suicide. Suicide occurs when stressors and health issues converge to create an experience of hopelessness and despair. Depression is the most common condition associated with suicide.

- Health Factors
- Environmental Factors
- Historical Factors

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS:

When concerned a person might be suicidal look out for a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors after a painful event, loss or change

TALK:

If a person talks about killing themselves feeling hopeless having no reason to live being a burden to others feeling trapped unbearable pain

BEHAVIOR:

Behaviors that might signal risk, especially if related to a painful event, loss or change:

Increased use of alcohol or drugs withdrawing from activities isolating from family sleeping too much or too little

aggression fatigue

Mood:

People who are considering suicide often display one or more of the

depression

anxiety

loss of interest

irritability

humiliation/shame

If you are considering suicide, you can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. You can also call Trans Lifeline at (877) 565-8860.

by Nellie Wong July 18,2015 © 2015 Nellie Wong

Sells the Street Sheet from 9:30 am to

In front of Books Inc on Van Ness Ave Born in Algeria 77 years ago Algerian father, Black American mother,

Sixth wife

But didn't want to be

Sixth wife

Brought Eric at seven years to the United States.

Lived in New York, Kansas and Texas Before arriving in San Francisco in

Helped his stepfather delivering produce

Worked as a laborer laying concrete. But jobs difficult and had no money to join the union.

Had two daughters now

In Sacramento, one 26,

Who come to visit him on Van Ness As he sits, Street Sheets fanned on his lap.

Empty containers and plastic bags surround

His concrete home on the sidewalk. His daughters give him a few dollars, when they can.

Two different women,

One saying, "There's good vegetables inside,"

Laying down a bag marked With "Max's Opera Cafe" Next to his wheel chair. The other woman coming out Of her car, slips a \$5 bill into Eric's hand,

His arthritic fingers peeling dry skin, saying, "Haven't seen you For a while. Darlin'", dashes up the street and disappears.

Eric keeps peeling skin off his left forefinger.

"This is where I got knifed. A guy Tried to rob me," pointing To his gallon jar

With five pennies and a nickel inside. Luckily he held up his hands In front of his chest.

Otherwise he would have been sliced On the neck or through his heart. "The cops caught him, didn't get my money," his mouth moving Showing no teeth.

Three years ago, got cut On the forehead.

Lift his watch cap, revealing a one-inch

Sells 20 Street Sheets a day, If he's lucky. Needs \$26.00 for a room for the night.

Otherwise, goes to the shelter. If no bed, he can sit up And sleep,

Get a shower early in the morning. Gets lots of pennies. A man Brings him a roll, unpeels it, and pours 500 pennies into his jar.

"Why don't you just give him a \$5.00 bill?" his wife asks.

"Cause I want to give him something to do."

His mom taught him to read and write. never went to school.

Likes to read stories and poetry. Been selling Street Sheet for 10 years

The cops no longer

Harass him 'cause he doesn't do drugs Doesn't do alcohol.

Besides, the sidewalk's public space. "I'm Moslem. Moslems don't do harm." The people in the condos at Opera Plaza, some drop

Coins into his jar.

A lady at the corner panhandles, Doesn't compete with Eric.

But passers-by tell her,

"Why don't you go back

To where you came from? Don't need His kind here", pointing

"Yeah, and where's that?" she retorts. Some give her a quarter, a dollar bill. But only pennies to Eric.

"'Cause she's white," he says without a grimace.

Likes it when his six-year-old granddaughter visits

His home across from a shuttered McDonalds,

Where another man sits On the pavement,

As if guarding the abandoned

A sanctuary for passing his day in

Eric saves his pennies.

"This is for college!" as he thrusts A jar full of coins

At his granddaughter. The girl hunkers down

On the sidewalk next to him, and says

"Thank you, Grandpoo!" "She calls me 'Grandpoo'. I call her 'Majestic!'"

Want to submit your own creative writing or volunteer to teach a workshop? Email us at streetsheetsf@gmail. com and let your voice, and words, be heard!



THE THREE MUSKETEERS OF CALVARY



Charles Davis sat down with Victor Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care, and Joann Lee, Associate Pastor for Community Foundation at Calvary Presbyterian Church, a local church that has invited Charles to sell Street Sheets to their congregation every Sunday.

When asked why Calvary had decided to invite a vendor into the church, Floyd spoke of his connection with the paper, saying "I have followed the Street Sheet for 20 years, and it is the best thing ever written. You get information directly from people who need shelter." Joann Lee continued by saying that the paper "lifts up voices that people too often ignore. They aren't silent voices but they have been silenced by society, but they should be a part of society. Street Sheet is different. The paper provides a way to talk to someone more in depth, and to listen

Davis also asked how else the church offers support to those experiencing homelessness, and got the word about some plans for the holidays. The church will erect a Giving Tree where folks can take what they need and hang offerings of necessities like socks, gloves and hygiene products for those who need them. They also organize a Thanksgiving event every year and were able to redistribute 3,000 pounds of food over the past year.

"Part of the struggle for us is how to not just duplicate efforts," said Lee. "While also not turning people away or shuffling them around to other places or providers."

The conversation moved fluidly into a discussion of best to address the widespread homelessness facing San Franciscans today. "The best cure for homelessness is homes," said Floyd. "If I could just take all the money, I could find I would build homes."

Lee added that we need a plan for preventing homelessness. "If we can keep people from being evicted and losing their homes in the first place, it wouldn't be how it is. Housing first is the right answer," she said. "I wish I could find a way to change hearts and minds so that people could understand that the dignity and humanity of all people is wrapped up in our own." ■

December

LAST BLACK MAN

BALBOA THEATER @7:30PM

Screening of "The Last Black Man in San Francisco" followed by a panel discussion. Benefiting the Coalition on Homelessness. Find us on facebook for more information.





REMEMBERING BERNARD WILHITE

Sweetheart (In Remembrance of Bernard Wilhite)

It's hard to be a sweetheart in a city, a world so hardened

But that's what you were, showing that smile that you just couldn't hide

We didn't know each other long but somehow it seemed that your smile was your mother's smile your grandmother's smile

the women in your life giving shape to your life

the best of us often carry the most pain

Our hands trying to give shape to what is misshapen

And you carried yours, along with your smile and grace expressed in tears you kept hidden

And now you are an ancestor

We carry your memory as you carried your smile

in a world

Where it's so hard to be a sweetheart

— Tony Robles

Bernard Wilhite was invaluable to me personally during the Prop C, Our City, Our Home campaign. He was the first one to show up and the last one to go home day in and day out and always saw to it that he was an extra pair of eyes and ears when managing such an enormous field team. I will always remember his earnest willingness to tackle every task asked of him and his ability to think a few steps ahead of what my needs, as Field Director, might be. Bernard quickly became a friend, affectionately calling me Mackie and kept in touch after the campaign ended. The last contact I had with Bernard was crafting a reference letter for him to get a job doing outreach for the homeless community. We talked about his intrinsic personal knowledge of the struggles of homelessness and his passion in working with the homeless community. Bernards laugh, great big smile and dedication will be missed. — Mackenzie Ewing

I am really sad to hear about Bernard's passing. I met Bernard over one year ago when I was working on the Yes on C campaign with Coalition on Homelessness. It was a very vigorous and stressful campaign, and Bernard played a big role in supporting that work through data entry. It was a tedious task but Bernard was still there everyday at the campaign, filled with passion and willingness to learn.

— Winnie Chen

hey bernard,
we crossed paths briefly
during prop c
we both knew the change it could
bring to our city
i'm sad to learn that you will not be
here
to see the fruits of our labor
know that you had taken part in sowing the seeds
so san francisco will open its eyes to
homeless folk
you are patient, generous, and always

when i walked into the coalition dur-

ing its frenziest week

i honor you today

— Vida K

greeted me



THE GIVING KITCHEN

at Positively 6th Street Chabad VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: December 2nd and 3rd 496 Natoma St. at 6th Street

Hot Soup from Warm Hearts to Good Souls: In conjunction with Faithforce Friends (part of Salesforce) we'll be giving out hot, delicious, kosher Matzo Ball Soup and personal hygiene kits.

- Dec 2 (730pm til we're done): Help make matzo balls and assemble hygiene kits.
- Dec 3 (1130am to 130pm): Give out soup and kits to the community.

Feel free to arrive and leave anytime during these events.

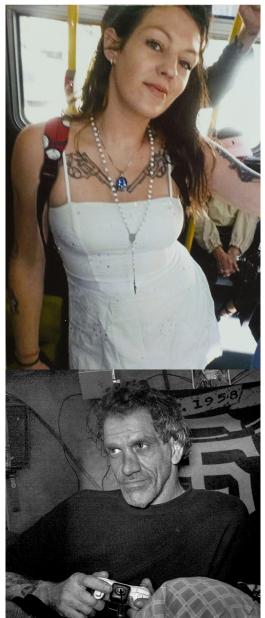
REMEMBERING LITTLE EDDIE

Eddie you will be so missed in the Hospitality House Community Arts Program. Everyone was so fond of your sense of humour, kindness and passion for art. You showed us all what it meant to live the life of a dedicated artist with the spirit of the 60s always visible in your hand painted jackets and top hats. You truly were part of the family here in this studio and you will live on forever through your poetry and art work.

— Janet Williams







HOMICIDE \$25,000 REWARD

The San Francisco Police Department has authorized a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the suspect(s) responsible for the murders of Lindsay Elaine McCollum and **Eddie Wayne Tate.**

On 12/16/2016 at approximately 8:46PM, a shooting occurred on the northwest corner of 16th Street and South Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco resulting in the murders of Lindsay Elaine McCollum, 27 years old, and Eddie Wayne Tate (AKA: Tennessee), 51 years old. McCollum and Tate were shot while inside a wooden box they used as living quarters on the street. The San Francisco Police Department is offering a reward to individuals who provide information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the killer(s).

Anyone with information regarding this case may contact Sergeant Mark Hutchings #904 of the San Francisco Police Department Homicide Detail at (415) 553-7976.

Person(s) with information about this case wishing to remain anonymous may call the SFPD Tip Line at (415) 575-4444 or by sending a text message to Text-A-Tip (TIP411). Begin the text message with SFPD.

SFPD CASE #161027331

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